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elongatum—Lat. lengthened.

Engelmanni—for Dr. George Engelmann of St. Louis, 1809–1884, author of studies of American oaks, rushes, cacti, etc.

Feei—for Antoine Laurent Apollinaire Fée of Strasburg, 1789–1874, a noted writer on ferns.

Filix-femina—Lat. female or lady fern; probably a translation of the popular name.

Filix-mas—Lat. male fern; probably like the preceding, a translation of the popular name.

fragans—Lat. sweet-smelling, the fronds of the fern concerned being fragrant.

fragilis—Lat. easily broken, brittle.

frondosa—Lat. leafy; referring to the green sterile segments which appear among the fertile ones in this form.

The Society for the Prevention of the Wild.

BY C. E. WATERS.

Years ago when a branch of the Wild Flower Preservation Society was established in Baltimore, one facetious feminine member nicknamed it the Society for the Prevention of the Wild. Everyone of us who has botanized or pursued any other branch of natural history in a particular locality for more than two or three years will begin to think that such a society exists there. Perhaps the writer of this jeremiad is unduly pessimistic, for he began to feel this way in the early days of the Fern Chapter and long ago expressed in print an unfavorable opinion of modern improvements which are responsible for the destruction of the wild places.

My acquaintance with the botany of the Baltimore region began late in 1890. During the years since then there have been many changes brought about in one way or another. To consider only the plants in which this Society is interested, there have been some losses, possibly irreparable. To own up at the start, before telling what others have done, my first and only plant of *Asplenium ebenoides* was enthusiastically grabbed up

and its fronds removed. Too tardy compunction led me to stick the roots back into the ground, but the damage was a double one and the plant died. For several years I would periodically search for the plant near a certain big rock, but in vain.

Perhaps others like myself have had the feeling that it is right to collect all the plants we need for our herbaria and for exchanging. We are too apt to forget that the plants will be dead and gone, no matter how scientifically they may be collected.

This brings me quite naturally to the large number of specimens of *Asplenium Bradleyi* that are in my herbarium. With them grew *A. montanum*, but very sparingly. Even my devastating hand did not take all of the plants, but there were none to be seen four or five years ago. The place became known to too many botanists, for the ferns were rare and interesting enough to induce them to take the trip on the railroad or, what was better, a tramp of twenty miles or so.

One other rare fern, to my knowledge, has been exterminated from the Baltimore region. *Lygodium palmatum* once grew in profusion in a little swamp beside the Baltimore-Washington turnpike. As late as 1902 fruiting plants three and four feet tall could be seen there. Ten years later two of us spent a long time looking, but did not see a single plant of any size.

In more than one manual *Botrychium simplex* is said to be found in the Baltimore region. Mr. Edgerton, who made the original discovery near Ellicott City on the Patapsco River, told me years ago that the plants were in one corner of a pasture. Of course the cows stood in that corner in preference to any other. The fern is no longer to be found near Ellicott City.

The only station for *B. neglectum* was not a stone's throw from a house. Suburban improvements have been the death of the dozen or so plants. A few acres

of woodland through which were scattered numerous large rocks on which grew an abundance of *Cheilanthes lanosa*, have also been improved out of existence.

In Anne Arundel County, only a few miles from Baltimore, there is a stream which flows through woods and past farms. At one place it broadens out into a shallow pond, now almost filled with silt. In the early nineties my schoolmates and I made several attempts to find this pond, because *Sarracenia* and other interesting plants grew around it. Now the pond can be seen from a much traveled road because truck-growers have cleared off nearly all the woods. Some of the plants which are in danger are *Dryopteris simulata* and *Lorinseria areolata*, both of which grow in large beds, *Anchistea Virginica*, one of two plants of *Dryopteris Boottii* known to be near Baltimore, and *Lycopodium adpressum*, not to mention many flowering plants. This is the type locality for *Osmunda cinnamomea glandulosa*.

Possibly none of the above would have been written if it had not been for a walk which my boy and I took on Decoration Day. He wanted to take, and perhaps brag about, a twelve-mile walk, and I wished to revisit one of the wildest and loneliest and most interesting haunts of the days before my coming to Washington. The first seven miles had the peculiarity so often noticed that although the contour lines on the map showed a drop of over one hundred feet, yet all the hills ran up, and were very steep at that. At the very spot where we had intended to take an obscure path across the hill to the banks of the Gunpowder River, we saw the first of a series of signs announcing that this was a state game preserve. The penalty was too large to encourage taking a chance at trespassing. Even now, six months later, I have not gotten over the disappointment of that moment, because for nearly thirty years the woods on both sides of the river had been my favorite haunts.

Baltimore gets its water from the river, and a few years ago it became necessary to erect a new and much higher dam. This improvement was bad enough, because the higher water covered my only colonies of fringed gentian, of *Lycopodium clavatum* and of a curious depauperate form of *Dennstedtia punctilobula* which B. D. Gilbert, against my protest, named var. *nana*. Drowned also are two patches of ostrich fern, one of them the first reported south of Pennsylvania.

Now that the Water Board has put several square miles of land under the protection of the State Conservation Commission, many other plants are safe even from botanists. No doubt it is all for the best, but it is cold comfort to think so. And it is hard to think so when I remember the fox grape vine more than five inches in diameter, which it was a pleasure just to look at. Near by was a group of papaw trees, the only ones on which fruit could be found every year, and one of three colonies of *Filix fragilis*. The other two are farther down the river, one in a rocky ravine and the other on a steep grassy bank. Judging by the shape and habit of the fronds, and having no knowledge of intermediate forms, one would be almost justified in calling them distinct species.

Across the river, on rocks that lie in the full blaze of the sun, is the only *Selaginella rupestris* known near Baltimore. This moss-like plant was identified for me by a professor of mathematics in the University of Bonn, then lecturing in Baltimore. That was on Thanksgiving Day, 1893. He was rather disgusted to find that the countryside was not dotted with inns, because he had brought no lunch with him, and mine was not enough for two. We stopped at a farmhouse where they gave us bread and preserved tomatoes. These were eaten on the doorstep while a flock of turkeys looked on. I never learned whether or not he had turkey that evening for a late dinner.

Growing with the *Selaginella* are the largest plants of *Cheilanthes lanosa* I have seen. In January, 1891, our high school "Chapter" of the Agassiz Society took a tramp (nobody "hiked" in those days) of twenty miles or so and found the dead fronds. Not for ten years or more was the fern found in two other places miles away.

After all this gloomy writing I feel but little better, even though I know that it is not my fault that all of these things have happened. If there is any moral at all to this, it is that we should think at least twice before we destroy a rare plant by collecting it in quantity. The Society should have for one of its objects the protection of our ferns. By giving too much encouragement to collecting and exchanging it can too easily become a Society for the Prevention of the Wild.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ASPLENIUM GRAVESII IN PENNSYLVANIA.—While engaged in the study of the soil reactions of rock ferns the writer went through the herbarium of Mr. Harold W. Pretz of Allentown, Pennsylvania, to obtain data on rare species there included. Among specimens of *Asplenium pinnatifidum* which had been collected in a ravine along the lower Susquehanna River, just below Fites Eddy, Lancaster County, Pa., on August 31, 1913, there were found to be several showing a gradation in their features toward *A. Bradleyi*. They appeared to correspond to the description of the hybrid between these two species named *A. gravesii* by Mr. W. R. Maxon about two years ago¹; and on comparison with the type of the latter plant in the National Herbarium, complete identity was established.

The sheets of *Asplenium pinnatifidum* and *A. Bradleyi* from the lower Susquehanna region in the herbarium

¹Am. Fern Journ., 8: 1. 1918.